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May 9th, 1848.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

Dr. Pickering called the attention of the Society to the fact that in all the estimates relating to the length of the year, no reference had been made to the time taken for light to reach us from the sun, about eight minutes and a half. He supposed that if that estimate was taken into the calculations, a slight difference would be found in the results.

Dr. Bridges remarked that the same estimate was taken at the commencement of the calculation as at the end—that the relative position of the sun to the earth was the same at both times; and he asked if the consequence was not, that the length of time between each position so estimated would be precisely the same as if the allowance spoken of by Dr. Pickering was made?

The effect of making such allowance would only be to add eight minutes and a half to each end, which would, of course, leave the difference between such ends the same as before.

Dr. Meigs offered some remarks on the mode of copulation in the Opossum, which he felt satisfied was performed *more canino*, as observed by Dr. Ellerslie Wallace of this city; and that the statements contained in a recent communication to the Academy on this subject, by Drs. Bachman and Michel, that the connection took place in a lateral position, were erroneous.

May 16th, 1848.

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

Dr. Gambel presented and read a communication from Major McCall, entitled "Some Notes on Mexican Birds heretofore not fully described;" which was referred to a Committee consisting of Dr. Gambel, Mr. Harris, and Dr. Wilson.

May 23d, 1848.

MR. VAUX in the Chair.

Dr. Bridges presented a paper by T. A. Conrad, being "Additions" to his "Observations on the Eocene formation and descriptions of one hundred and five new fossils of that period, from the vicinity of Vicksburg, Mississippi, with an appendix," read on the 12th October, 1847, intended to be embodied with that communication, and for publication in the Journal.

Referred to the former Committee, Dr. Griffith being substituted for Dr. Leidy, absent.